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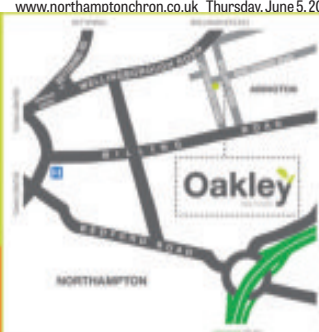
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THE STREETS OF NORTHAMPTON WERE LINED WITH RUGBY FANS WHEN THE SAINTS PARADED THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP TROPHY AND THE EUROPEAN AMLIN CUP ON AN OPEN-TOP BUS – SEE PAGE 26

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Bridge could hold key to reducing congestion

A bridge could offer the solution to congestion in the St James area of Northampton, according to the town's Labour group.

Earlier in the month civic leaders sent a plea to the Transport Secretary to dispose of a stretch of redundant railway track, which is preventing the two ends of St James Mill Road from being linked up.

Northampton Borough Council, the county council, two MPs and the two local enterprise partnerships serving Northamptonshire said the project would be key to improving traffic flow around the new railway station by allowing an alternative 'L-shaped' route between Towcester Road and the A4500.

Plans for the road have been delayed because it would have to cross a stretch of an old freight line which, despite being unused, is still being considered for future use by Network Rail.

Last week there was a renewed call to speed the project along by taking a route over the railway.

Councillor Gareth Eales (*Lab, Spencer*) was due to make a motion at Monday night's full borough council meeting that the authority considers "an alternative option," such as building a bridge over the disused track, "at the earliest opportunity".

The motion reads: "It would increase the economic viability of the south-west district and particularly the Waterside Enterprise Zone and the new rail station.

"Also the major problem of heavy traffic on Saints and Cobblers match days would be much improved."

Congestion-hit St James residents have called for the link road to be built as soon as possible.



Civic leaders say a road linking the two ends of St James Mill Road could alleviate gridlock scenes around St James and Sixfields, such as the one seen above, but it would need to pass across – or over – a disused railway line

sible. Secretary of the district's residents association, Graham Croucher, said: "It would make a huge difference to St James.

"It would offer an alternative route for traffic to take when things get snarled up. On the other hand that railway could be equally important to the town, so perhaps we need to find the money to fund a bridge. That's the ideal situation.

"The line goes all the way to Brackmills so there could be an opportunity there for companies to deliver freight on the rails."

Councillor: 'Link road won't solve everything'

Northamptonshire county Councillor Jill Hope (*Lib Dem, Sixfields*) said the link road plan would not be a miracle cure to congestion around St James.

"It will help to some extent," she said. "But it will move traffic to the St James Retail Park area which, as you know, is already

clogged up. I'm worried whether the supporters of the scheme have done the traffic modelling around this. Also where is the money going to come from? It might be absolutely wonderful to build a bridge, but at a time when we are struggling to pay for basic services."

New sausage and cider festival in town

A taste of the West Country will be coming to Northampton next month with the launch of the town's first Northampton Sausage and Cider Festival.

The event, similar to the Towcester Sausage and Cider festival, will be held at Old Scouts RFC in Rushmere Road on June 21 and 22.

It will help to raise money for the rugby club and for a charity set up by the family of Northampton schoolboy Luis Ghaut, who is suffering

from osteosarcoma.

The sausages are made by hand by gourmet sausage maker Duncan Brown, who lives in Northampton.

The festival runs from noon–11pm on Saturday, June 21 and noon–9pm on Sunday, June 22. There will be live music on both days. Entry for adults is £5. Children are free.

For more details go to www.facebook.com/NorthamptonSausageAndCiderFestival.



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Cyclist backs

An international cyclist from Northamptonshire is urging people to sign up for this year's Cycle 4 Cynthia event.

Hannah Barnes, who lives in Towcester, competed against elite riders from around the globe in the inaugural Women's Tour, which started in Northamptonshire earlier this month.

Ms Barnes has now lent her support to Cycle 4 Cynthia, which this year will benefit Cynthia Spencer Hospice and the Northampton children's charity, Kid-said.

Unfortunately, Hannah is unable to take part at the event, being held at Lamport Hall in the autumn, as she will be competing in Europe but she hopes her success and the recent local interest in the tour will inspire the county's cyclists to sign up.

She said: "It's a real shame that my own time trial in Spain means I can't take part in this year's Cycle 4 Cynthia as it sounds like a really fantastic day and of course it's supporting two great local charities.

"But I'd really encourage everyone to get involved though as



SIGN UP Top cyclist Hannah Barnes is urging people to sign up for this year's Cycle 4 Cynthia

cycling is such a sociable sport and I've met so many great people and lifelong friends while taking part in events or just enjoying a weekend ride around the park or to a pub and back.

"So get in those saddles and get pedalling and I wish everyone a really wonderful day come September," she added.

Sue Bownass, fund-raising manager for Cynthia Spencer,

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en's Tour has shown that the sport is massive in the county at the moment, so we really hope that those who came out to wave on Hannah and her fellow riders will now be spurred into getting on their own two wheels to support these two vital local charities and take part in this really wonderful day."

Cycle 4 Cynthia, which is now in its 11th year, is on Sunday, September 21 and will start and finish at Lamport Hall. It will again offer riders five, 25 or 50-mile routes around the villages of north and west Northamptonshire.

For more information, including details of the new routes and sponsorship forms go to www.cycle4cynthia.com

said she expected a record-breaking amount of riders to take part this year.

She said: "Last year a large number of companies joined us, meaning we had an impressive to-

tal of almost 1,100 riders, but I'm confident that, with the support of more firms and their staff, we can be even bigger and raise even more money this year.

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approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

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GET IN TOUCH



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Next store opening in town in October

Next will be moving into the former House of Fraser unit in Northampton's Grosvenor Centre in October, it has been announced.

Signs have been put up outside the large vacant unit, which covers two floors of the shopping centre, and has been empty since the department store closed in March.

Next, which will be moving from its current location in Market Walk, is set to fill part of the ground floor of the site, which also includes the former Miss Selfridge unit, in October.

No opening date has yet been announced for when Primark - who will also take up a large proportion of the House of Fraser site - will move in to the Grosvenor Centre.

A spokesman for Grosvenor Centre owners, Legal & General, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming Next to the Grosvenor Centre later this year. Its large new store will take a significant proportion of the prime space vacated



The new Next store in the Grosvenor Centre is opening ahead of schedule

in March."

The new Primark will be three times larger than the existing store in Abington Street, while Next will occupy a 16,500 sq ft space on the ground floor of the Grosvenor Centre on a 15-year lease. Legal and General said in December that the deal showed both Primark and Next wanted to "commit for the long term".

Legal & General also said

last year that Primark and Next would not take over all of the floor space left by House of Fraser as there would still be space left over for "one small store".

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Sainsbury's store in the Grosvenor Centre said the closure of the Greystar's bus station had not had a negative impact on the footfall in the supermarket.

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Funeral tributes to former Mayor Terry

A procession of Harley Davidson motorbikes and fire engines crawled through the St James area of Northampton last week for the funeral of Terry Wire, a former mayor of the town.

Hundreds of people attended a service at the church in St James last Thursday and heard tributes from Councillor Wire's political friends, family and former colleagues in the fire service.

A tribute from Councillor Les Marriott – Councillor Wire's close friend and a fellow member of the Labour party in Northampton – was read out by church deacon Mick O'Leary, who said Councillor Wire would be "greatly missed".

Councillor Marriott said: "He wanted to improve things for the better and always wanted to make Northampton a better place.

"He was deeply proud to hold public office and his contribution to the council was considerable," Council-



The funeral for Terry Wire (inset) was held in St James last Thursday

lor Marriott added.

Councillor John McGhee, the leader of the Labour Group for Northamptonshire County Council, said Councillor Wire was a "fighter" both in his job and political career.

He said: "I think we've lost a community champion, not just for St James and Northampton but for the whole of Northamptonshire.

"I think people will remember Terry for a long time,"

he added. Tributes to Councillor Wire – who had battled cancer – were also read by former colleagues in the fire service, where he worked for 30 years, including representatives from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), in which Councillor Wire was heavily involved.

The funeral service was followed by a private ceremony at the Counties Crematorium in Milton Malsor.

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LONG DELAYS Motorists queuing for miles to get through the roadworks near Northampton General Hospital

20 weeks of jams at junction works

Motorists have faced queues up to three miles long in the first days of major roadworks near Northampton town centre... with school run traffic due to return next week.

Roadworks at the junction of Bedford Road and Victoria Promenade began on Monday and are set to last up to 20 weeks.

Even during the traditionally quieter traffic of the school holidays, morning rush hour vehicles yesterday queued from Northampton General Hospital to Little Houghton.

Some motorists reported queuing for 45 minutes to get through the temporary traffic lights.

Northamptonshire County Council and Northampton Borough Council proposed the improvement work as they believe the junction has long been over capacity.

A spokeswoman from Northamptonshire County Council said: "There will always be some disruption with a scheme like this, but the long-term benefits will make it worthwhile."

"This is a hugely significant scheme for Northampton as not only will the work both improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, it will also support the regeneration of the town centre, as it is an essential element of the development of Northampton's Waterside Enterprise Zone and

the new university campus."

Work will include wider lanes approaching the junction along Bedford Road, a dedicated left-turn lane from Bedford Road into Victoria Promenade and improved pedestrian crossings.

And an 'intelligent' traffic signal control will co-ordinate traffic movements in anticipation of future growth.

The scheme is intended to complement other major high-ways projects on Northampton's inner ring road which, combined, are aimed at improving traffic flows.

The overall scheme will cost £1.3m and take approximately 20 weeks to complete.

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Students' exam papers lost in post

Students at The Duston School have been told they would have to re-sit a set of exams after Royal Mail lost their papers in the post.

Three weeks ago year 10 teenagers on the childcare development course took their GCSE equivalent CACHE exam paper early because course leaders felt the group was performing well enough to do so.

But on Wednesday parents of the pupils received a letter from the school saying: "We have had communication from the exam board that they have not received the exam papers."

"On further investigation it was discovered the papers were lost by Royal Mail."

Susan Freund, whose 15-year-old daughter Bethany will now have to resit the exam on June 24, said she was furious at the blunder. Many pupils even attended revision sessions over their Easter Holidays.

She said: "These exams are



Pupils on the childcare development course at The Duston School were told they will have to resit their exams after papers were lost in the post

not just a ten-minute thing - these girls have now all got to resit a paper they thought they were finished with. They will be so stressed about it, they may well not get the grades they were expected to get."

Mrs Freund said she was shocked the school did not send the exam papers through a more secure method.

She said: "You wouldn't send a relative £100 of cash in

the regular post would you?

"At the very least I would have thought they would be sent by recorded delivery - or even courier."

The school said it was now investigating how the papers were lost.

The letter to parents went on to say: "This is a very unusual and unfortunate situation and has never happened at Duston School before."

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fast and express delivery service and have a range of low fat dishes to help encourage our customers a healthy lifestyle.

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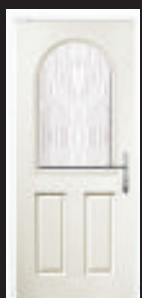
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Calls to make weight-loss surgery free

A Northampton woman has called on the Government to make cosmetic surgery easily available to major weight losers on the NHS, after she was denied a 'life-changing' operation.

Louise Hirst, of Southfields, lost 17 stone in two years when she realised her weight had gotten out of control.

But this week – after the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommended the NHS paid for overweight people to go to slimming classes – she said the health service was not looking after those people who did manage to lose large amounts.

Having gone from 32 stone to 15 stone since 2012, she has been left with a large fold of skin around her stomach.

But after being refused the operation by the NHS, she has been told it will cost her £8,000 to get it done privately.

She said: "It's all very well the NHS paying for people to go to Weight Watchers, but what about the care afterwards? It's a good thing to do with people, but at the end of the day the operation costs £8,000. You are going to have to put up with the embarrassment of lumps and bumps."

Mrs Kirk said the fold of skin is affecting her mobility. "It affects my daily life," she said. "You have to be careful what you wear all the time. I don't understand why it is just considered a 'cosmetic treatment'."

An apronectomy, to 'tuck' back the hanging skin, is rarely available on the NHS unless



Louise Hirst lost 17 stone in two years, but now says an operation to remove a fold of skin on her stomach should be easily available on the NHS.

'My brave battle with weight'

■ **Grandmother-of-three** Louise Hirst first started gaining large amounts of weight in 2002 when she was made redundant from her job as a shelter scheme manager in London. It led to 10 years of misery, in which the former prison

officer ballooned to 32 stone and did not leave her home. A friend helped her turn that around in 2012 by helping her start on a weight-loss programme. "It was the best thing I ever did," Mrs Hirst said. "I can go out now and buy clothes."

"overriding physical or psychological" reasons make it necessary.

Mrs Kirk said she will keep applying for the surgery through her GP.

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Rare England cap sells at auction for £650

A rare 100-year-old cap, awarded to a Northampton Town footballer who made history by becoming the shortest player ever to play for England, was sold for £650 at an auction, roughly double the amount expected.

The 1913-1914 purple and white quartered Football Association international trial cap was awarded to Frederick "Fanny" Walden, who went on to become England's shortest football star after leaving the Cobblers.

In his football socks, Walden was only five feet two-and-a-half inches tall.

In the early 1900s, some potential England players were required to take part in trial matches to decide whether they were good enough to play in internationals.

Outside right Walden impressed sufficiently in his trial to play for England in 1914 and again in 1922. In his book, *An English Football Interna-*



The cap belonging to Frederick Walden

tionals' Who's Who, Douglas Lamming said: "This most diminutive of footballers enjoyed a popularity in inverse proportion to his size."

"Crowds revelled in his capacity to wriggle past bigger opponents, outwitted by uncanny control and left floundering by smart acceleration."

Frederick Ingram Walden was born in Wellingborough on March 1, 1888, and after playing for local junior clubs, White Cross, All Saints and Redwell, he made the step up and joined Northampton Town FC in 1909.

Four years later, in April 1913, the Cobblers sold him to Tottenham Hotspur for £1,750.

That might not sound a lot of money now, but 100 years ago that sum would have been enough to buy at least three decent houses in Northampton.

Walden, nicknamed Fanny because of his size [it was slang at the time for someone of short stature], also played county cricket for Northamptonshire between 1910 and 1929. He later became a first class cricket umpire and stood the square in several test matches.

Before the sale, held at Graham Budd Auctions in London on Thursday, May 22, Fanny Walden's trial cap had been expected to fetch between £250 and £350, but in the end, it went for £650.

Its sale coincided with the 65th anniversary this month of his death, in Northampton at the age of 61, on May 3, 1949.

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Police pledge to keep young out of court and child arrests low

Police have welcomed a drop in the number of child arrests and have said they will continue to explore methods of dealing with young offenders outside the court room.

According to new figures from the Howard League for Penal Reform charity, the number of children arrested by Northamptonshire Police has fallen by 58 per cent in five years.

Chief Inspector Nick Purdie, of Northamptonshire Police, said: "The total number of arrests in the county is on a steady decline which is as we would expect with significantly falling crime rates.

"The arrests of young people is in line with this trend. However, we do make particular efforts not to criminalise young people and arrests for minor offences are avoided.

"Northamptonshire Police works with a number of partners to engage with young

people who may be involved in anti-social behaviour or causing a nuisance within a community to prevent any offending from escalating.

"The police cannot break the cycle of offending alone, whether for young people or individuals more generally, and we work with educators, social services and others in an attempt to divert offenders from crime."

Howard League chief executive, Frances Crook, said: "It is encouraging to see that Northamptonshire Police are making significantly fewer arrests of children than they were in 2008, thanks in part to our effective campaigning.

"A fall in the number of children entering the justice system is good news for everyone striving to reduce crime and saves the taxpayer millions.

A lot of work still to be done to lower child arrest rates

■ **Child arrest figures for Northamptonshire have dropped continuously from 3,069 in 2008 to 1,289 in 2013. Despite this positive trend, a Howard League spokesperson said: "Child arrests remain all too common nationwide. Last year, police**

in England and Wales made 129,274 arrests of children aged 17 and under, and an average of three primary school-age children were arrested every day. In total, police made more than 1.3 million arrests of children between 2008 and 2013."



less arrests Police said they do all they can not to criminalise young people

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ROAD TEST – NISSAN LEAF TEKNA

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By IAN DONALDSON

Motoring writer
editor@northantsnews.co.uk

Forget all the talk about range anxiety and consider one simple fact about the Nissan Leaf; it is a delight to drive.

Push your right foot towards the floor and it takes off like a highly-civilised bat out of hell, with one major difference to most of the cars around it at the lights... lack of noise.

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dearer executive express.

About the size of a Ford Focus, the Leaf has room for five and has a decent boot. It will happily sit at 70mph on the motorway until the battery runs out and is a genuine de-

light to manoeuvre around a crowded town centre, with no gears or clutch pedal to worry about. Carefully-placed cameras front and rear on this top model Leaf give you views of the kerb and let you creep up

to parked cars with inches to spare.

With driving range the biggest worry, the latest Leafs have a more efficient electric motor and a heater (in the top two versions) that's much kinder to the battery.

You can buy the cheapest Visia version for £16,490 (which includes a £5,000 government grant for electric vehicles) and lease the battery for £70 a month, if the annual mileage is less than 7,500. You can buy both car and battery, with the dearest combination (like the car on test) retailing at £25,490.

Our kind government, anxious to promote electric

cars, then generously shaves £5,000 off the price of the Leaf and other all-electric machines.

If it still sounds an expensive way of travelling consider that a full charge is likely to cost around £2 on cheap electricity. That ought to get you around 90 miles, so running costs are tiny. No road tax or congestion charge either, of course.

But there's still that range anxiety. No getting away from it, you will soon learn to estimate the likely length of your trip in a Leaf, or any other purely electrically-powered car, for that matter.

We set off for a shopping

trip safe in the knowledge we could fast charge (in 20 minutes) at a Nissan dealership. That's a comfort if you find yourself near one, as are the series of rapid chargers being installed along our motorway network, but you'll still need a second, petrol or diesel powered car if you want total security on longish journeys.

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2004 £3195 ono

Mercedes A160 CLASSIC SE SWB 53, 1.6, 40k miles, silver, petrol, 2003, Fsh, 12 mth MOT, tax Aug 14. £2,450
Tel: 07976356597

2003 £2,450

Mini

MINI MINI 06, 1.6, 70000 miles, white, petrol, 2006, tax mot vgc air conditioning lady owner. £3,995 ono Tel: 07801747904

2006 £3,995 ono

MG

MG MGF 1.8i WC 1.8

sports, petrol, red, 1996, 94000 miles, only 20000 over the last 8 years, excellent runner. Ideal restoration. MOT July, taxed June. £900 ono
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1996 £900 ono

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NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 dCi N-TEC, 5 DR, VERY HIGH SPEC, SAT NAV, 89,000 MILES, DIESEL IN SILVER
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PEUGEOT 106 XN INDEPENDENCE R, 1.1, 98k miles, blue, petrol, 1997, Long MOT Feb 2015. £325
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1997 £325

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ROVER 114 SLI AUTO

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2004 £1695 Reduced Price

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2013 £8,100 ono

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SOLD SOLD

1999 SOLD

Vauxhall

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Tel:01858 431 380

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2001

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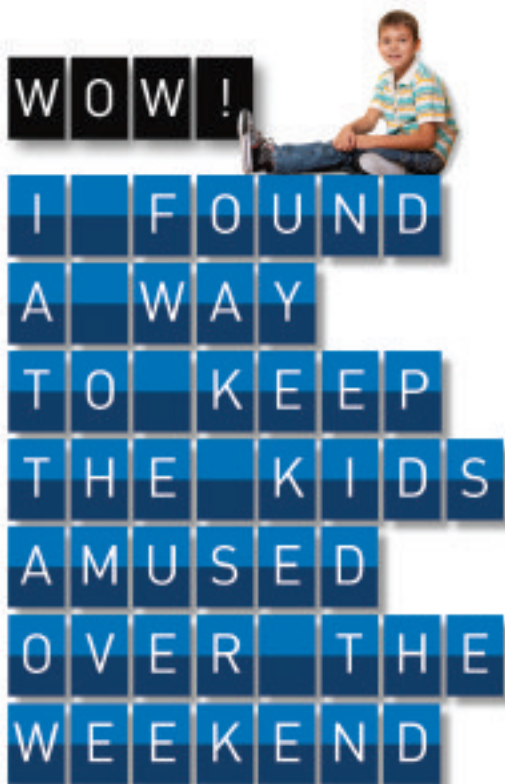
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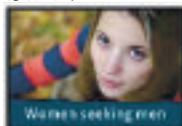
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IN THE MOOD FOR ROMANCE Easygoing, caring woman, 54, 5'5", slim build, enjoys eating out, the theatre and travelling, would like to meet a humorous, educated gentleman, of a similar age, to share interests and more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 157445 or send a text to 80361

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GLAD TO MEET YOU Attractive, N/S, outgoing lady, 55, sociable, GSOH, enjoys going to the theatre, animals, sports and country-side, looking for a similar, tall, attractive male for companionship and maybe more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151613 or send a text to 80361

JUST GOOD FRIENDS Friendly, green-eyed Corby lady, brown hair, 57, non-smoker, no kids, enjoys dog walks, country pub meals and peaceful times, now searching for a handsome farmer/countryman Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 170675 or send a text to 80361

THE BETTER HALF Warm-hearted, sensitive and reliable Northampton female, 59, 5'9", curvy, searching for a sunny, trustworthy, tall man, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 162457 or send a text to 80361

FRIENDSHIP CAN BRING HAPPINESS Kind-hearted, easygoing, widowed Northampton woman, 66, enjoys reading, dog walks and occasional nights out, simply searching for a kind, honest male, for friendship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156627

LET'S DO DINNER Retired, caring Northampton lady, 68, enjoys dining out, aqua aerobics and soul music, would like to meet a kind, honest, reliable male, to share quality time together and see what happens. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149483 or send a text to 80361

LADY SEEKS GENT Bubbly, petite, attractive, 68 year old Olney lady, divorced, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoy music, dancing, Tai Chi and outdoors. Seeks a caring, loyal smart gent, age 60-70, for romance. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 172566

GOOD COMPANY REQUIRED Kind-hearted Rugby female, 72, would like to meet a sincere, considerate male, aged 65-75, for good company, great conversation and a lasting friendship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153687

IS THIS FOR YOU? Caring Northampton female, 75, non smoker, likes gardening, meals out, walks, would like to meet a male, 60-65 who is honest and genuine, for friendship and more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 161917 or send a text to 80361

GOOD NATURED Friendly, caring, young looking Rugby lady, 77, 5'10", enjoys walks, theatre, board games, days out, theatre, holidays, would like to meet a similar gent, to share happy times with. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 166417 or send a text to 80361



I'M READY FOR LOVE Friendly, reliable Rugby man, 31, 6'3", with GSOH, interested in art, photography and drumming, would like to meet a woman, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149827 or send a text to 80361

FUN-LOVING, EASYGOING Funny, caring, 39 year old Northampton male, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build. Likes nights out, cinema, dinner, outdoor stuff, also like cosy nights in. W/ITM a down-to-earth female, who's up for a laugh. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 163377 or send a text to 80361

LOOK NO FURTHER Active, caring, genuine, 50 year old Rugby male, 6'2", well-built, brown hair, blue eyes. Seeking a female in Rugby for a long-term relationship, must like pubs, keeping fit and sports. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167108 or send a text to 80361

LOOKING FOR LASTING ROMANCE Easygoing, romantic Kettering male, 50, 6ft, medium build, enjoys cosy evenings in and cooking, looking for a similar female, to care for and love each other. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149438 or send a text to 80361

SPECIAL DELIVERY Brown-eyed Market Harborough male, 50, 5'7", no ties, enjoys film, sport, sci-fi and much more, searching for an equally easygoing lady, with a kind and caring nature, for true romance. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 170460 or send a text to 80361

ADVENTURE AHEAD Friendly, honest and caring, 53 year old Kettering male, would like to meet a nice female of a similar age, for a long-term relationship, enjoys cinema, going out, music, TV, walks and films. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 170842 or send a text to 80361

LET'S GET OUT THERE Genuine, sincere and caring, 54 year old Lutworth male, divorced, would like to meet a friendly lady, who has a good sense of humour, for evenings out and to enjoy life together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171786 or send a text to 80361

LIFE-LOVING LIKE ME? Lonely, honest, caring male, 54, looking to find someone I can share my life with and look after. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151117 or send a text to 80361

US TOGETHER Friendly, caring, honest, 55 year old Leamington Spa male, widowed, own home and car, but missing a person to share life's ups and downs with. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 168911 or send a text to 80361

LET'S GO OUT! Professional, romantic, honest, loving Market Harborough male, 58, N/S, fun-loving, enjoy weekends away, holidays in the sun, music, dancing and gardening. Seeks a lady to share good times. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171744 or send a text to 80361

LOT OF LOVE FOR THE RIGHT PERSON Attractive, slim, solvent male, 60, with lots of love to give, simply seeking a caring, loving lady, for friendship and possibly more in the future. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148942 or send a text to 80361

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED Romantic, professional, trustworthy Market Harborough male, 60, own home and car, no ties, GSOH, N/S, would like to meet an open and honest woman, for a lasting and loving relationship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156664

JUST LOOKING FOR ROMANCE Romantic, professional, handsome male, 60, N/S, own house, car and business, honest, tactful and lovely open personality, seeks a female, for long term relationship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158935 or send a text to 80361

GET TOGETHER Divorced, naturalist male, 62, enjoys weekends away, swimming, evenings in, seeks female to share lifestyle with. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152936 or send a text to 80361

LEADING TO LOVE...??? Youthful, fit, kind-hearted Wellingborough male, 65, would like to meet a younger female companion, for friendship and possibly more in the future. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156898 or send a text to 80361

SMART AND GENUINE Presentable, 65 year old Market Harborough male, enjoys days out, weekends away, foreign travel, travelling to London and going to exhibitions and walking, cycling, swimming. W/ITM a special lady. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167052 or send a text to 80361

TOP OF THE WORLD Rational, positive and lively Corby man, 70, retired and active, would like to find an open, observant female 60-65, for caring and happy times together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167631 or send a text to 80361



BROWN EYED GIRL Caring, sensitive, brown eyed Daventry woman, 37, 5'5", brunette, enjoys cosy nights in with a good film, would like to meet a similar woman, for friendship, possibly more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158165 or send a text to 80361



FUN SEEKER Fun-loving, friendly, 44 year old male, would like to meet a male for fun, and a possible relationship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167710 or send a text to 80361

FUN AND LAUGHTER Friendly, honest, straight-forward, 60 year old Warwickshire male, 65, 5'8", still working, searching for a like-minded male, for fun times and something good. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 169983 or send a text to 80361

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SPORT

Saints' finest season yet!

Former chairman Barwell savours title triumph

RUGBY

Keith Barwell says this season has been the best in his time at Saints.

The club's former chairman feels the campaign which has seen his beloved club claim Amlin Challenge Cup and Aviva Premiership glory surpasses the Heineken Cup win in 2000.

Barwell has done much to put Saints in the position they currently enjoy, with his huge investment in the early days of professionalism laying the foundations at Franklin's Gardens.

He now enjoys a watching brief and says he had never savoured a campaign more than the one that ended with a first top division title triumph at Twickenham last weekend.

"I don't think we've had a better season," Barwell said. "There have been some good seasons - when we won the Heineken Cup is an obvious one - but as a season this year has been brilliant.

"I think the build-up made it that bit more special, beating Leicester in the semi-final in the best atmosphere I've ever heard here, and then coming from behind against Bath for the Amlin.

"It was a big sigh of relief for me to finally lift that trophy as English champions."

Barwell was at Twicken-

ham to soak up the success and also attended the victory parade in Northampton town centre a day later.

It was just reward for the huge commitment his family have shown to Saints, and Barwell couldn't have enjoyed it more.

"It was overwhelming for me, but I'm past my sell by date!" he said.

"I couldn't sleep on the Friday night and was up early on Saturday. At the end of it all I felt like I'd played in the game.

"I think I was probably more happy on Sunday in the Market Square, I've never seen the people of the town so happy. We've spread a lot of joy and I'm just so pleased for the supporters."

Meanwhile, director of rugby Jim Mallinder has signed a new five-year deal at Franklin's Gardens.

"This is a superb club and a brilliant job," he said. "There are not many positions like this in world rugby and I've loved every minute of being here.

"We've had a few ups and downs, but generally we've been on the up since being in the first division that first year.

"We're getting better and better, not just as a team and a squad, but as a club, and it's something I want to be a part of."



Cobblers won't make bid to sign Bayo

THE Cobblers will not be making a bid to sign former player of the year Adebayo Akinfenwa for a third spell at the club.

The 32-year-old is available on a free transfer after turning down the offer of an extension from Gillingham and is back in the country after a holiday in America.

But Northampton will not be submitting an of-

FOOTBALL

fer for the player's services during the current transfer window.

Manager Chris Wilder is in the market for a target man centre-forward and had held talks with a player based outside of England who has since decided to move elsewhere.

He was keen on signing Akinfenwa, who has scored 74 goals in 188 appearances in his two previous Northampton spells, both during the January transfer window and prior to the loan window closing in March.

Akinfenwa will not, however, be making a return to the club this summer with Wilder, who is also in the market for a left-back, a

right-back and a winger, looking to other targets.

Meanwhile, striker David Moyo has signed a one-year contract extension at the Cobblers.

The 19-year-old youth-team graduate will enter his second year as a professional next season, having made seven appearances in the senior side during the 2013/14 campaign.

Only two of those came under Wilder - and both from the bench - but the manager believes there is a lot more to come from the Zimbabwe-born teenager.

"We are pleased as we feel David has got a bright future," said Wilder.

"There is more to come from him than supporters may have seen so far.

"He's got pace which is

frightening but we need to work on his skills and his technical ability.

"He's a great boy and he's willing to work and put the hours in.

"He is working hard on his fitness and strength over the summer and he is looking forward to coming back to work with the rest of the lads towards the end of the month."

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Fading Gigolo	27-29 Jun & 10.30am 1 Jul
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Belle	11-14 Jul & 10.30am 15 Jul
The Devil's Knot	18-20 Jul

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Rio 2 (U)	26 May - 1 Jun
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Tarzan (PG)	21-22 Jun
Postman Pat: The Movie (U)	27 Jun @5pm, 28 Jun @10.30am, & 28-29 Jun
Maleficent (PG)	4 Jul @5pm, 5 Jul @10.30am, & 5-6 Jul
Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return (U)	12-13 Jul

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